

Brookline Preservation Commission

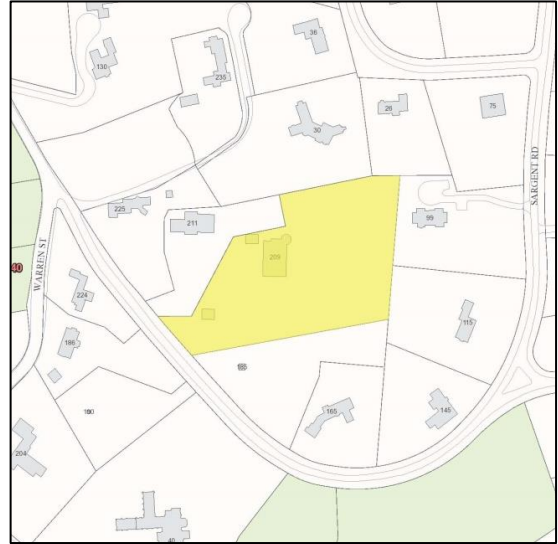
Demolition Application Report

Address: 209 Sargent Road

Applicant: 209 Sargent Road Realty Trust

Building Type: House (Partial)

National Register Listing (if Applicable): Green Hill National Register Historic District



Historical/Architectural Significance:

Ignatius Sargent, a well-known local merchant, had the handsome structure at 209 Sargent Road (fka as 164 Warren Street) constructed in 1845 after he first purchased the property, though he did move into the dwelling year round until 1852. It is presumed to have been designed by Richard Upjohn, who also designed St. Paul's Church on the corner of St. Paul Street and Aspinwall Avenue.

Square in form, the 19th century dwelling features a cross gabled roof, eaves with elaborate stone brackets, and large dentil string coursing above the second floor. The building is notable for its sandstone block exterior material. Former Preservation Planner, Carla Benka, noted on a 1983 survey form that the design appeared to have been influenced by what A.J. Downing referred to as the Bracketed Mode, a combination of Italianate, Gothic Revival, and Swiss Chalet style features. The design includes an open loggia with masonry pillars, and gothic stone arches on three of the four sides, which provides a connection between the house and landscape, once known nationally for its picturesque beauty.

Between 1845 and 1873, Ignatius Sargent, purchased neighboring lands, and eventually owned 150 acres of land. Ignatius was an avid horticulturist, an interest his son, Charles Sprague Sargent, the well-known first director of the Arnold Arboretum, shared. After returning home from Europe, Charles S Sargent took on the role as manager of the estate, and in collaboration with his father, continued shaping and uniting the lands into a picturesque landscape known as Holm Lea. Some of Ignatius Sargent's children lived in other homes on the estate's property, including his daughter, Henrietta Codman, who lived next door with her family. Charles S Sargent resided towards the Boston line in a notable home that was unfortunately demolished in 1948. Charles' house was located in the approximate location of today's 53 Sargent Crossway.

Ignatius Sargent died in 1884, and his estate was left to his second wife, Henrietta Gray Sargent. After Mrs. Sargent passed away in the mid-1890s, their grandson, James M. Codman, Jr., an attorney and life long bachelor, moved into the dwelling at 209 Sargent. After Charles S. Sargent's death in 1927 the Sargent Estate began to be subdivided.

The house at 209 Sargent Road meets the following criteria for an initial determination of significance:

- b. The building is listed on or is within an area listed on the National or State Registers of Historic Places; is eligible for listing on the National or State Registers of historic places; or is a building for which a preliminary determination of eligibility has been made by the Massachusetts Historical Commission;
- c. The building is associated with one or more significant historic persons or events, or with the broad architectural, cultural, political, economic, or social history of the town or Commonwealth; and
- d. The building is historically or architecturally significant in terms of its period, style, method of construction, or its association with a significant architect or builder, either by itself or as part of a group of buildings.

The house at 209 Sargent Road retains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, materials, and workmanship.



Aerial view of 209 Sargent Road, looking east.



Aerial view of 209 Sargent Road, looking north.



Aerial view of 209 Sargent Road, looking west.



Aerial view of 209 Sargent Road, looking south



Photographs of the right side elevation



Photographs of the front and left side elevations



Photograph of the front elevation



Photograph of the rear elevation



Photograph of the open loggia on the front elevaetion



Photograph of the open loggia on the right side elevation



209 Sargent Road c. 1902 (courtesy of the Brookline Historical Society)



Holm Lea c. 1902 (courtesy of the Brookline Historical Society)